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LETTER DATED 12 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 12 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations transmitting a letter of the same date from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to you (S/1999/673), I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

The Foreign Minister of Iraq, in the above-mentioned letter, explicitly and unambiguously admits that a well-known and internationally recognized terrorist organization maintains its camps in the territory of Iraq, where it receives substantial material, military, political and logistical support from the Government of Iraq. It is a well-established fact that this organization has been responsible for many blind terrorist attacks and activities which were planned, nurtured and carried out from the territory of Iraq against Iran, resulting in the killing and wounding of hundreds of innocent Iranian citizens and officials. As a matter of fact, this terrorist organization has, on many occasions, publicly and proudly claimed responsibility for those terrorist attacks and activities inside and outside Iran. Obviously, these criminal and unlawful operations could never take place without the collaboration and full support of the Iraqi regime. It may be recalled that the details of such transboundary terrorist activities have regularly been reported to the United Nations and published as documents of the Organization.

The Government of Iraq, by providing sanctuary and unhesitating support to this terrorist organization, violates its obligations under the basic principles of international law and disregards the continuous call by the United Nations to further strengthen cooperation between States in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Iraqi-sponsored terrorism runs counter to the principle of "good-neighbourly relations" which it claims to follow. Moreover, the Government of Iraq, by nurturing, financing and instigating terrorists against the Islamic Republic of Iran, defies several General Assembly resolutions, in particular paragraph 5 (a) of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (annexed to General Assembly resolution 49/60), which, inter alia, calls upon the States Members of the United Nations:



To refrain from organizing, instigating, facilitating, financing, encouraging or tolerating terrorist activities and to take appropriate practical measures to ensure that their respective territories are not used for terrorist installations or training camps, or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens.

I wish to emphasize, once more, that the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed. Moreover, Iran, as a vivid victim of terrorism, remains devoted to cooperating fully with other nations, particularly with its neighbours, towards the elimination of terrorism and that under no circumstances will it condone or tolerate this menace of the century, irrespective of its culprits and their motives. In this context, it must be stressed, however, that Iran remains determined to take action against terrorists in order to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity, national security and the safety of its citizens. It needs to be clarified that the proportionate actions by Iran, against terrorist bases and targets in Iraq which have been used to train terrorists and generate terrorism against Iran, have been taken in a discriminate manner and in exercise of the inherent right of self-defence as set out in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Accordingly, such actions, taken in response to numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian people and officials, are in line with the pronounced policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran which has been previously brought to the attention of the Secretary-General and the Security Council (see for instance S/25843 of 26 May 1993, S/1994/983 of 21 August 1994, S/1994/1145 of 10 October 1994, S/1996/602 of 29 July 1996 and S/1999/536 of 11 May 1999).

In pursuance of this policy and in the exercise of its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter, the concerned authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran targeted a well-known active terrorist camp, located in the territory of Iraq, on 10 June 1999. This proportionate action was a necessary defensive measure against the perpetrators of the terrorist crimes that had already been carried out against Iran and its citizens. It also aimed to prevent further recurrence of similar terrorist operations which were being planned and organized at the very same terrorist installations inside Iraq. As stated in the past, Iran holds the Iraqi regime fully responsible for the consequences of any terrorist acts and operations which are planned and nurtured in Iraq and directed against Iranian citizens and territory. Moreover, Iran categorically denies its involvement in any other incident referred to in the above-mentioned letter of the Foreign Minister of Iraq.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like, once again, to underscore that it remains fully committed to respecting the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Iraq, that the above-mentioned action has been taken only against terrorists and that Iran is ready to take further steps towards normalization of relations between the two States. However, Iran believes that Iraq's unabated support and assistance to terrorists is not conducive to the improvement of bilateral relations and contradicts its claim that "sincere efforts being made by Iraq to establish good-neighbourly relations". Indeed, the policies and practices of the Iraqi regime in the region, which have gravely undermined regional peace and security during the past two decades, can by no means be

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interpreted as Iraq's "sincere efforts" to establish good-neighbourly relations with its neighbours. Without doubt, Iraqi-sponsored terrorism is a serious threat to peace and security in the region and defies the statement of heads of State and Government at the Security Council summit, in which they expressed "their deep concern over acts of international terrorism" and emphasized "the need for the international community to deal effectively with all such acts".

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
